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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT

SUBJECT

Hungarian
Mineral Oil and Natural Gases Research
Institute, Veszprem

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three-page report on the Hungarian Mineral
Oil and Natural Gas Research Institute (Magyar Asvanyolaj es Foldgaz Kiserleti
Intezet) at Veszprem. The report contains information on the departmental
organization, department heads, research work conducted by the departments and
on the labor force of the Institute.

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SECRETH U N G A R YEconomic/Scientific

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Hungarian Mineral Oil and Natural Gases
Research Institute.

1. The Hungarian Mineral Oil and Natural Gases Research Institute (MAGYAR ASVANYOLAJ ES FÖLDGÁZ KISÉRLETI INTÉZET) has its headquarters and most of its principal departments at VESZPRÉM. The director is FREUND, Mihály [redacted] his deputy is BENEDEK, Pal.

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2. The departments are as follows :-

(a) FIZIKAI KÉMIAI OSZTÁLY (Department of Physical Chemistry), the head of which is BENEDEK, [redacted]

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(b) SZERVES KÉMIAI OSZTÁLY (Department of Organic Chemistry) led by Dr. BATORI, Istvan. [redacted]

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(c) ÜZEM KISÉRLETI OSZTÁLY (Experimental Works Department), housed in the MAGYAR VEGYI MUVEK, an old synthetic-rubber factory, construction of which had been begun by the German but never finished.

This is at RAKOSKERESZTÜR, 15 kms. east of BUDAPEST, and is headed by one [redacted] There is also another pilot plant for hydrogen processes at PET Chemical Works, operating mainly under the direction of BENEDEK. (Pilot plants at PET are also run by other Institutes, e.g., the Institute of Organic Chemistry.) It was hoped to have more pilot plants at the Institute in VESZPRÉM, but shortage of funds made it necessary to build these at factories where facilities already existed.

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(d) OLAJ TECHNOLÓGIAI OSZTÁLY (Department of Oil Technology) led by Dr. NYUL, Gyula. [redacted]

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(e) There is also a small section in BUDAPEST working in the Technical University, which has a plant for drying various types of petroleum. It is headed by ~~PALLAI~~, Istvan.

3. There were between 150 and 250 workers at the Institute. During periods of "rationalisation" ordered by the government, the figure would drop, but always crept back to its previous level. There are about 5 or 6 scientists in each department, each having one or two technicians and one or two workmen to help him.

4. Departments (b) and (c) above formed one single department until a year ago, when the head of the section, ~~BERTI~~, Jozsef, went to East Germany as an assistant Professor to set up a department of Applied Chemistry. The section was then split into two.

5. Research in the Physical Chemistry Department includes :-

(a) Hypersorption

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By this process acetylene gas is obtained from carbon dioxide and other inert gases. The pilot plant for this is in PET and has obtained a high degree of success. It is planned to use the new process in the TISZAVIDEKI KOMBINAT Chemical Works in Eastern HUNGARY. These works will be supplied with methane gas piped from ROUMANIA under an agreement signed four or five years ago. Two milliards of forints have been set aside for this project, one of the largest items in the new five-year plan.

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It is thought however that this sum will not be enough. The methane is supplied by ROUMANIA on the agreement that it is used for chemical breakdown purposes, not for burning.

(b) Partial oxidisation of methane to produce a gas containing 8% acetylene. This is then separated by hypersorption to produce acetylene of 99% purity.

(c) Cracking, contact-cooking and partial oxidisation of heavy petroleum residues.

6. Research in the Department of Organic Chemistry includes work on :-

(a) The production of acetone from acetylene. Laboratory work on this subject has been brought to a successful close and a plant is at present being erected and tested at the Roumanian town of BETUMEN, 25 kilometres from BUCHAREST. This work is being carried out by Hungarians from the Institute at VESZPREM, and from the Hungarian Chemical Industries Planning Institute. Another plant for the partial oxidisation of methane has been put up at BETUMEN by the Department of Physical Chemistry working under (Dr. LASZLO (f.n.u.) who has been in ROUMANIA for the past three years.

(b) Sulphonation of petrol fractions for the production of synthetic soap. There is a pilot plant for this at RAKOSKERESZTUR (see para. 2(c) above), and even some small-scale production has been started.

(c) Oxosynthesis (high pressure synthesis) of carbon monoxide and other components to obtain alcohols, ketones and aldehydes. A pilot plant for the production of ketones in this way was housed in the MAGYAR VEGYI MUVEK at RAKOSKERESZTUR.

(d) Production of bitumen from oil.

7. Works conducted by the Oil technology department includes :-

(a) Chromatographic separation of oil fractions.

(b) Solvent extraction of oils.

(c) Improvement of transformer oils to obtain, inter alia, a higher boiling point.

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